

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (original) A method for providing user access to a portion of a web site implemented by an electronic commerce system, the web site being accessible by one or more users and comprising a set of on-line stores and a set of organizations, each of the said on-line stores being associated with one of the set of organizations, the method comprising the steps of:

associating each user with a unique identity in the system;

associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles for a security domain, the access role defining access privileges for the user corresponding to the user identity, the security domain comprising a subset of the set of organizations and the on-line stores associated with the organizations in the subset; and

granting or denying access to a user attempting to access a portion of the web site by determining the user identity for the user and determining the access role associated with the user identity for the security domain corresponding to the portion of the web site subject to the access attempt.

Claim 18 (original) The method of claim 17 in which the step of carrying out the determination of the access role associated with a user identity for a security domain occurs at user login time.

Claim 19 (original) The method of claim 17 in which the set of access roles comprises registered customer and administrator roles.

Claim 20 (original) The method of claim 17 in which the set of organizations is a tree structure, the step of associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises the step of associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations,

the security domain includes the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization, and

the step of granting or denying access by determining the access role associated with the user identity for the security domain comprises determining the access role for the user identity by traversing the tree structure of organizations commencing at the selected organization and including the ancestor organizations to the selected organization.

Claim 21 (original) The method of claim 18 in which

the set of organizations is a tree structure,

the step of associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises the step of associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations, and

the security domain includes the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization.

Claim 22 (original) The method of claim 19 in which

the set of organizations is a tree structure,

the step of associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises the step of associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations, and

the security domain includes the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization.

Claim 23 (original) The method of claim 20 in which the step of associating a user identity with one of a set of accessible roles comprises entering data in a table

comprising rows comprising data representing user identity, organization, access role associations.

Claim 24 (original) The method of claim 17 in which the step of providing user identities with associated access roles occurs at the time of user registration to the web site.